



# “British Automobile”



“Dedicated To Preserving British Transportation in America”

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Winter 2018

President.....Pete Stroble

Treasurer.....Tom Graeff

Vice-President.....Max Grattan

Membership.....Paul Strieby

Editor.....Robert Luken

## **Presidential Insights, November 2017**

**Pete Stroble**

As the Museum enters a critical time in its fundraising, a major endorsement was received from the Central Ohio Mini Owners. The endorsement was in the form of a check for \$4000. Nothing speaks louder than money! To further lift our spirits, the Mid-Ohio Austin Healey Club gave its support with a check for \$1000. Both clubs see the value in preserving our British motoring heritage here in the USA. BTM is the only effort of this kind and as a result has attracted many rare and unusual vehicles. We are a preservation home for all of the British marques and an educational base from which we can reach out to others. The British enthusiast community has our back and we need to spread this message.

In another form of support, the Southwest Ohio Centre MG Car Club is seriously considering helping to restore a 1959 MGA Coupe project that was donated to us. Ian Cunningham donated the MGA “without strings” but it would be a very nice addition to the collection once assembled. It came sand blasted/primered and with a factory rebuilt motor. An inventory of the three pallets of parts confirmed that all of the crucial parts are there. Just mix in the time and expertise of the MG Club and “BINGO”, a beautiful restored MGA for future generations to enjoy.

Above we have three examples of car clubs actively supporting the hobby and its future. Can you or your club help carry forward this movement? Encourage your friends to become members and your club to become engaged in whatever manor or at a level that works for them

## **Great News!**

### **Real Estate Tax Exemption Granted**

As a nonprofit organization BTM is now officially exempt from Real Estate taxes except for the 200 sq. ft. of our Gift Shop. This saves us about \$10,000 per year. It is good for the 2016 tax year which we have not paid. It is not good for the 2015 tax year (already paid) which is when we bought the building in May.

It would seem to be a no-brainer that we would get the exemption as we have been working at our core Mission of preservation and education for a long time. Just relieved that the bureaucracy did not eat us up.

Pete

## **Paving Completed in Front Of BTM**



The City of Dayton recently repaved Hopeland Street in front of the Museum. The repaving was just in time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off, to be held on Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 2017 British Car Day Best of Show Award

BTM members, Bill and Jeannie Jacobs Aston Martin DB-2 won the Best of Show award at the 2017 33rd Annual British Car Day, held August 5th at Eastwood Metro Park. British Car Day is sponsored by the MG Car Club of Southwest Ohio



### The British Automobile Aston Martin DB-2

**Bill Jacobs**

We would like to thank all the volunteers and participants of the British Car Days Dayton event for their participation in making this show such a success.

For us the show began years ago to Dave VonDuke, a stranger but fellow car enthusiast, who traveled out of Indianapolis to 4 states selling his HVAC wares. Dave kept a "black book" of "sports racers" and "others" he would spot in his back road travels. We had a mutual friend, Jack Skeens, who raced his 1 litre cars back in the 50's thru 80's. Dave started reading off the various marks he had recorded over the years, one after the other, with the instructions to stop him if one sounded interesting. 2-DB coupes Berea, Devin Panhard Ohio river in Indiana, Jowett Jupiter, DB-2 Aston Martin...STOP!

Off to LaFontaine, Indiana to search for a car near routes 15 and 218, no names, no address, no GPS, no internet, just pure luck.

We found, thank you UPS man, the DB-2 in a falling, semi roofed, shack. It was in with

tractor pieces and parts. It took a year to close the deal.

Originally it was imported by "Wacky" Arnold's dealership of Chicago, Il. late 1952. Immediately sold to Schnieder Motors in Minneapolis-St. Paul on December 31, 1952. A new years present no doubt for the new lucky owner. It had the up-rated Vantage 125 h.p. engine, crushed strawberry exterior and saddle interior. Bijou cigar lighter and body color painted 60 spoke wheels on Dunlop tires dressed the presentation. Although Tom Cahill wrote in "Road and Track" about this model test drive scaring him with high speed darting, it was to become known as the best handling sports car of it's day. Both Phil Hill and Briggs Cunningham bought the DB-2 cars they tested on the spot and were very impressed with its handling manners. Tom Cahill's re-test went much better the second time giving it high praises as the *caster/ camber was out of adjustment on first go round.*

*Which reminds me I need to re-check my caster /camber in #271 before the next outing.*



What was special for us was being handed the trophy and being congratulated by none other than Dick Smith.

Thank you BCD, Bill and Jeannie Jacobs.

### High Speed Internet Available at BTM

Thanks to the generosity of Board Member, Robert Luken, high speed internet is now available to BTM members and museum visitors. Hot spot access has been enabled. To access the internet simply ask a BTM volunteer for the SSID number and Password.

## How It's Made – Dream Cars Caterham 7

Several years ago the Discovery Channel aired an episode of its “How It's Made” series featuring the Caterham 7



In his wildest dreams, Colin Chapman would not have believed his lightweight sportscar would last half a Century, that it would still be a benchmark for performance and handling, be sold in 30 countries worldwide and provide unrivalled opportunities in motorsport. The Caterham Seven® has achieved all of this and more

It may be over 50 years old in spirit, but the Seven® will always be a work in progress. Consequently, we don't stand still. It's not in our nature, nor that of the car. The history of the Seven® reads as an annual catalogue of technical development, innovation and functional design; and this is not set to change any time soon and we will stretch the envelope even further. There is so much we want to do, limited only by the number of hours in the day – if the passion and commitment of our staff is anything to go by!

Further to this continued passion for development and evolution, Caterham as a business has changed immeasurably in recent years following the acquisition by business entrepreneur Tan Sri Tony Fernandes. His leadership has led to the birth of the Caterham Group, which is now home to a range of cutting-edge automotive, motorsport, technology and specialist engineering companies that sit within a single group business.

The group companies are divided into three sectors:

- Automotive – Caterham Cars and Caterham Experience
- Motorsport – Caterham Racing (GP2), Caterham Moto Racing Team and Caterham Motorsport
- Specialist Engineering – Caterham Technology & Innovation and Caterham Composites

Any racing driver will tell you that success is a function of a team's dynamic and cohesion - and the Caterham Group is no different. Here at Caterham Cars we're extremely proud of our position as custodians of the Seven®, and with it the unique Britishness and heritage of the car itself. But ultimately our objective is quite straightforward. There really is no better satisfaction than seeing the face of someone stepping out of a Caterham having driven it for the first time. The picture is unequalled anywhere and in anything else.

Had fun? You bet you did! Do it again? You bet you will!

The episode of How It's Made originally aired on August 28, 2017.

View the YouTube video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhYmafA4lTI>

### **Web Links:**

Caterham Cars US:

<http://us.caterhamcars.com/>

Wikipedia Article:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caterham\\_7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caterham_7)

AUTOCAR Review

<https://www.autocar.co.uk/car-review/caterham/seven>





## FCCA ?



In with the memorabilia BTM has collected is a nice 13"X 3.5" aluminum plate with FCCA 25 on it made in England. There was also a cast 3.5" round emblem resembling a wheel knock-off with FCCA. This might have come from Paul West's estate. The FCCA was a mystery. Was it related to the SCCA? What did it mean? A recent BTM visitor Don Williams filled in the picture as he was FCCA 26.

According to Don, originally FCCA stood for the "Four Cylinder Club of America". Their round emblem, at that time, had four pistons sticking out of it instead of three knock-off ears. Later they became the "Foreign Car Club of America" and went to the Knock-off design. The Club started in the early 1950's and was limited to 35 members.

The FCCA was the who's who of Southwest Ohio automotive enthusiasts back then. They socialized on tours and by going to races such as Put-in-Bay and the opening of Mid-Ohio Race Course. Several members even raced in SCCA and NASCAR. Five of them once made a trip to California to bring back Go Kart kits that were state-of-the-art for the early years of karting. They brought Go Kart racing to the Dayton area.

Don shared a wealth of information when we sat down in the shade at the Oakwood "Classics on the Lawn" car show. Don has a large auto collection and every time I see him it is with a different car, a Packard at the Oakwood show and an MG Magnette at the Concours. Don is also in a small club of folks that have travelled over 200 mph at the Bonneville Salt Flats. In Don's case, it was

2006 and 2007 in a heavily modified Nissan 240SX. His mechanical engineering projects at WPAFB even led to laps in 1968 at Le Mans, Daytona, and Sebring in the Howmet Turbine Race Car.

Thanks, Don, for sharing a bit of history that could have been easily lost.

FCCA History Project website:

<http://www.fourcylinderclubhistory.com>

## PASSINGS

### Charlie Avery Nov. 9, 2017

Sad to report the passing of Charlie Avery at age 80. He was a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel and he had been fighting cancer for several years. He and his son restored a 1967 MG Midget which they drove and enjoyed for many years.

Charlie donated the Midget and his collection of MG books to the Museum in 2013. Charlie's memory will live on in the enjoyment that his donation will give to others.



Dick Smith receives the restored 1967 MG Midget from Charlie Avery. Rest in Peace, Charlie.

### NATALIE "Talie" GRAEFF

Natalie passed away on December 7, 2017. Funeral services were held on December 12, 2017. Natalie was the beloved wife of BTM Treasurer Tom Graeff. They had been married for 21 years.

BTM offers their condolences to both the Graeff and Avery families.

## Recent Acquisition

At the end of July the Museum purchased a 1949 Ferguson TE20 tractor.

It has a freshly rebuilt engine and drivetrain but there is still "some assembly required". The cowl and fenders need to be painted "Ferguson gray" to be correct. The purchase price of \$500. Jeannie and Dick Smith initiated a \$50 challenge to see if others would match their donation and "Fund the Ferguson".



Stepping up to fully fund the Ferguson purchase were Max Grattan, Tony & Lynne Burgess, Rick Ayres, Chuck & Marcia Irvin, Richard Davis, Amanda, Leah, & Jaden Hawker, Gene & Melinda Allison, Paul & Sue Strieby, Tim & Tamya Rawson. Thanks to their support a whole new area of British transportation that found its way to America can be explored. The engine in the Ferguson tractor is a modification of a Standard sedan engine. The same engine with different modification became the engine for the Triumph TR-3

Plus, all of the Triumph tractor engine jokes will have new life.

A cute web site for the Grandkids (and some of us big kids) is [www.LittleGrayFergie.com](http://www.LittleGrayFergie.com). It has our tractor interacting with its human family in little 5 minute episodes. Is this a great way to hook kid on British vehicles?

## Other Recent Acquisitions

Ian Cunningham has donated two project cars to the British Transportation Museum, A 1959 MGA Coupe, and 1972 Triumph GT-6 moved in since last meeting. MGA is in primer & needs some additional restoration, paint & assembly. GT-6 needs assembly. Both came with no strings and could be sold. Thanks to Ian Cunningham for their donation.



Triumph GT-6



MGA Coupe



Our 1960 Angelica Van (right) was recently moved from storage in Sardinia OH to the museum

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off

**Amanda Hawker**

The British Transportation Museum held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook off on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Around 50 people gathered at the Museum for the event to enjoy chili and beautiful cars. Nine contestants brought in their favorite chili for all to sample and enjoy with two lucky people going home with a gift basket for their prize-winning chili. Visitors from Delaware County, Columbus, and even Bainbridge traveled to the Museum for this fun social event. Attendees enjoyed the chili and socialized while others watched the OSU Buckeyes take on Penn State and a few dabbled on getting the 1994 SPI Mini Cooper running.

Chili Cook-Off attendees also had the privilege to celebrate the 80th birthday of one of BTM's founding members, Dick Smith. A table of sweets and gifts was set up in honor of his birthday. Dick has served as BTM President, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor and is passionate about British cars. Thank you, Dick, for your leadership and commitment to the British Transportation Museum over the past 15+ years!

Another stand-out moment was Tom Christ presenting a check for \$4000 from Central Ohio Mini Owners to BTM. COMO moves to the top of the list of Club supporters and the Mini marques, in general, take on the distinction of giving more than all of the other marques combined. Although Chris Clark could not make the event, he had let us know that the Mid-Ohio Austin Healey Club was donating \$1000 from their Regional Meet. Thanks to both Clubs for their support.

As the Cook-Off came to a close, two outstanding chefs won an award, gift basket, and \$25 gift card for Judge's Choice and People's Choice. Congratulations to Tami Christ with her #9 chili (as in Love Potion #9?) that was the favorite of our Judge Nancy Edgerton and many attendees. Tami's chili was a labor of love and spent *hours* simmering

on the stovetop. Nancy Stroble was the runner up for People's Choice and took home an award as well. Nancy's chili combined mild chili and cornbread into one delicious and filling bowl of chili.

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Amanda Hawker presents Tami Christ with her gift basket and Award Plaque

Plan on joining us in 2018 for this annual fun event. It is not too early to start experimenting with chili recipes. Tami Christ, this year's winner, has agreed to be our celebrity judge for 2018.

## TRI STATE STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB VISITS

The Tri-State Studebaker Drivers Club visited the museum on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Their story and pictures are on the following page.

*Studebaker*



## British Transportation Museum Tour

by Doug Baer

On Saturday July 29th members of the Tri-State Studebaker Driver's Club got together for another one of our scheduled outings. The members met at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Dayton for lunch. The food there was

very good and if you ever go to eat there you should bring a big appetite or else you're going home with a doggie bag.

After lunch the group took a short drive over to the British Transportation Museum on Hopeland Street, also in Dayton.

Upon arrival at the museum we were greeted by the president of the museum, Pete Stroble. Mr. Stroble was our tour guide for our visit and answered any questions we had about the museum and the vehicles that were there.



It was interesting to see the various models of vehicles that had been produced in other countries and cars that had been produced in the U.S. for export. One such car was a 1936 Packard Club Coupe that was built for the British market. The Packard featured a rumble seat and a side door for golf clubs.

There were many different makes of vehicles in the museum, such as MG, Jaguar, Triumph, Rolls Royce, Austins, Mini Cooper and others. There was a TR6 Triumph that had been converted to electric propulsion

by use of a fork lift electric motor and eight 12 volt batteries which allowed it to have a driving range of 12 to 18 miles on a full charge.

We were shown a 1936 Daimler Mulliner Limo that was possibly used in coronation procession of King George VI. The royal



families at that time were reported as always using Daimler limos. This particular car was imported to the U.S. by Karl Kleve of Cincinnati, Ohio in the 1960's.



The weather was perfect and the lunch and museum tour seemed to be enjoyed by all. It was great to meet members Curt & Susan Thiessen who had never been to a club activity before. Welcome and hope that you join us again in the future.



For those not able to attend we missed you and hope to see you at the next event.

### Members in attendance:

Doug and Joyce Baer  
Bill Bisailon - '88 Avanti Convertible  
Gary Grebner  
Janet Grebner  
Curt & Susan Thiessen  
Bill & Edna Farrell and son Tom  
Phil & Madelyn Harris w/ grandkids Nathan & Julia  
Malcolm & Susie Berry - '63 Lark Wagonaire



## BTM Cars for Sale

These cars are either duplicates or are projects currently beyond our means to complete. All came to us with “no strings” or encumbrances as to their disposition. Funds raised will go towards furthering the mission of the Museum. Call Pete Strobel for information. 937-546-0039



**1976 Mini 1.3L** – 53,026 miles. Brought up to 1994 SPI spec. Right hand drive. Excellent body, paint, and interior. Kardon radio/CD player. Hella Rally lights. Union Jack roof graphics. 165/60x12 Yokohamas on Panasport wheels. Car cover. Well sorted, nice driver. \$12,500.



**1961 Humber Super Snipe series III** – 56,000 miles, solid body, clean underneath. Leather interior with rear fold-out trays. Six cylinder hemi engine, 2965cc. Rare 3 speed on the column. Starts every time. Very nice driver. \$5000.



**1959 MGA Coupe** – Body and frame sandblasted and in primer. Solid straight body. Factory rebuilt “Gold Seal” 1500cc engine. Heritage certificate (originally Orient Red with black interior). Comes with 4 pallets of parts, many new, to assemble. \$4500.



**1972 Triumph GT-6** – Build sheet of \$5610. in new parts. Fresh rebuilt motor with 2 new Stromburg carbs. 5 new Panasport wheels. New gas tank. Suspension, brakes, and diff rebuilt. Has some holes in floor pans, should be replaced. \$4000.

**1977 MGB** – 46,226 miles. Maroon with new top. Down draught weber, exhaust header. Panasport wheels. \$5000.

**1978 MGB** – 92,778 miles. BRG with new top. Rostyle wheels. Luggage rack. Well maintained nice driver. \$4000.

**SOLD - 1956 Jaguar XK 140 Coupe** – Body shell and suspension, no engine or trans. Looks to be accident free. A major project that will only go up in value. \$4000. **SOLD**

**Mini Woody Wagon** – Project in need of rocker panels. New wood kit. All of the Wagon specific parts are there. No engine/trany. No front subframe. \$2000.



**Jaguar MK II Sedan** Parts car. Engine head missing, front windshield and side windows missing. Interior in rough shape.  
Make Offer - **Bring a trailer**